

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IC  
APRIL 20, 2012  
EXHIBIT 18**

April 20, 2012

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

RE: Montana Board of Plumbers

Dear Committee Members,

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) strongly support the Montana Board of Plumbers and their important role in protecting the health and safety of Montana's citizens.

The Board provides oversight of Montana's plumbing licensing program and establishes a required level of knowledge of the adopted plumbing code and actual experience in the plumbing trade. Knowledge and experience are the two most important factors that contribute to quality plumbing systems that protects us from disease that can be spread in water and waste disposing systems.

Only a few years ago a deadly SARS outbreak in China threatened not only China but many other counties. Bad plumbing did not cause the SARS virus but did allow the spread of the virus because the plumbing code that protects our health and safety was not followed by knowledgeable workers installing the plumbing system.

Montana has joined many other states in the northwest that also require continuing education for plumbers. The continuing education program enhances the licensing program and is one more reason the Board of Plumbers is providing a valuable service to Montanans.

It is our opinion that the Montana Board of Plumbers should continue to provide their important services to Montana and continue to protect the health of its citizens.

Sincerely,



Pete Crow  
IAPMO Manager, Montana

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